

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Occidental Grand signs on as an official host resort for ARUBA IN STYLE 2011



Jesus Cardoso signs while Eva Wever looks on

Founders of the ARUBA IN STYLE sat down yesterday afternoon with Occidental Grand General Manager Jesus Cardoso to officially sign the agreement designating the resort as an official host hotel for the upcoming Fashion Week taking place November 3-6.

Organizers are expecting a large contingent of designers, models and celebrities from around the world, and will be doing a spotlight on Brazil

and their significant designers, many of which will be hosted at the Occidental.

Jesus Cardoso affirmed his enthusiastic support of the AIS, along with his belief that the event will provide the opportunity for a fashionable, luxury class of traveler to discover Aruba's many attractions and amenities.

AIS founders Damalice Mansur, Eva Wever and Ronchi de Cuba joined Mr. Cardoso on the 9th floor VIP Lounge for the official declaration and signing of the con-



Jesus Cardoso with Damalice Mansur Ronchi de Cuba



Jesus Cardoso with the ARUBA IN STYLE team

tract.

"We are extremely pleased by the Occidental Resort's support," stated the organizers. "We are certain this lovely facility will reflect beautifully on Aruba and the quality of the island accommodations to a very well-traveled and savvy group coming here for the inaugural ARUBA IN STYLE."

by Rosalie Klein

## Aruba's Public Transport System sees better days ahead!



ORANJESTAD -- Accounting firm Deloitte and Touch prepared a report with reference to the financial situation of Arubus in an effort to create a wholesome financial situation for the company. This report was prepared in conjunction with the Management and Board of Directors of Arubus.

The objective is to achieve a solid financial base for the company by 2013. The intention is to have a financially solid public transport company with a group of quality busses deserving of our citizens. The government declared their commitment to achieving this goal.

Arubus will invest in modern equipment and smart cards before December 2011. The new smart cards will replace the existing cards which are bought for cash on the bus. The smart cards will be rechargeable. The smart cards will provide much better control as each person will be required to swipe the card upon boarding the bus. There will be no increase of fares at this time. The special tariff for school children will remain unchanged, pensioners will be able to ride for free. For young people involved in a sport, they will now be able to travel on the bus for the same tariff as school children, namely, for Afls.1.25.

With respect to the smart cards, these cannot be pur-

chased by our tourists; they will be available only to Aruban citizens. Tourists will be required to pay Afls.4.00 for their bus ride. It is calculated that about 30% of those using the local busses are our tourists so that the increase in the tariffs for tourists will generate an additional 1.2 million Florins per year.

They envision creating 30 new jobs at Arubus through new contracts for part time service for schools as well as for new autobus chauffeurs. The intention is to amplify the bus routes and improve the service to the community. Fifteen current employees will be given the option to choose one of the new positions. They will receive a lump sum to purchase an autobus, with which they will service the route designated by Arubus. In addition they will receive a contract for Afls.1000 basic salary from Arubus, and all monies generated from their routes will be completely theirs. It is calculated that they could earn between 3.500 to 4.000 florins per month on the designated routes.

In line with improving the financial situation of the Arubus Company, as of October 1st the incoming new director's salary will be reduced from what it is currently, as well as beginning 2012 they will reduce the salaries of all staff by 10%.

Continued on page 3



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## Latin America mulls drawdown of Haiti mission

MONTEVIDEO (AFP) - South American nations with troops deployed in the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti are gathering here Thursday to discuss a gradual drawdown of the force beginning in 2012 after eight years on the ground.

The moves to rethink the role of the 12,000-member MINUSTAH peacekeeping force comes as it is increasingly under fire in Haiti -- blamed for a cholera epidemic and more recently an alleged sexual assault of a Haitian youth.

Brazil, which commands the force, is considering reducing and restructuring its contingent, the largest with some 2,000 troops, a defense ministry official said in Brasilia.

"For now, no number nor date has been set. But if it happens, it would be a gradual reduction without causing chaos," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

South American defense and foreign ministers will meet here today with the head of the mission, Mariano Fernandez of Chile, to discuss a report by a technical team that traveled to Haiti after President Michel Martelly was sworn into office in May.

The commission's report recommends that "starting in 2012, MINUSTAH should begin a gradual drawdown, in an orderly fashion," Uruguayan Defense Minister Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro said.

The force is drawn from 18 countries, but the bulk of the troops are South Americans from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

MINUSTAH's mandate expires October 15, at which point the UN Security Council will take up its future.

The force was first deployed in 2004 to demobilize militias that had arisen after

the Haitian army was disbanded following a coup. It has since provided security through political turbulence and a catastrophic earthquake that killed an estimated 225,000 people in early 2010.

The UN peacekeeping department has said that MINUSTAH is one of four missions -- along with those in Ivory Coast, Liberia and East Timor -- where the UN hopes to bring down troop numbers.

The UN had been hoping to cut back numbers in Haiti before the massive 2010 earthquake which led to a surge in UN troop arrivals. A drawdown will probably start next year when troops that are scheduled to leave will not be replaced.

Martelly has said he wants to create a modern army to replace the UN force, and MINUSTAH has increasingly become a sore point with Haitians, who blame it for introducing cholera in the country.

## At least 43 killed in Russian hockey team plane crash

TUNOSHNA (AFP) - A jet carrying a top ice hockey team crashed after takeoff from the Russian city of Yaroslavl on Wednesday, killing at least 43 people including several foreign stars.

The emergency situations ministry said two other people aboard survived but were in grave condition.

The crash occurred near the site of an annual forum attended by President Dmitry Medvedev to discuss Russia's upcoming election battle.

Among those killed were the coach, Canada's Brad McCrimmon -- a former assistant with the NHL's Detroit Red Wings -- the team's goalie and former Swedish Olympic champion Stefan Liv as well as Slovak ex-NHL standout Pavol Demitra.

Three Czech stars -- Jan Marek, Josef Vasicek and Karel Rachunek -- were also among the dead.

The plane began listing to the left only seconds into the afternoon flight and crashed about 500 metres (yards) away from the Tunoshna airport.

Initial reports said the jet may have hit a local radar antenna and the twisted wreckage of the aircraft lay buried in the Tunoshna River as divers searched for signs of life.

Officials initially said that a steward was the only person among 45 passengers and crew members to survive the

crash.

But a local hospital surgeon later told Channel One television that Russian player Alexander Galimov was alive but in critical condition with burns to nearly 90 percent of his body.

The crash revived memories of an August 1979 disaster that claimed the lives of 17 football players from the Tashkent side Pakhtakor.

Russia has experienced another summer full of mishaps that have for the first time also marred the country's once-proud space programme.

Two accidents involving Tu-134 and An-24 jets this summer killed a total of 54 people and prompted Medvedev to call for most of the aircraft to be retired by January 1.

But that move was followed by a series of smaller air accidents as well as a Volga River boat sinking that killed 122 people out on a summer pleasure cruise.

The team has a strong national following and recently attracted several younger stars from the NHL.

Hundreds of the team's fans converged on Lokomotiv's ice hockey arena in the evening for a sombre candlelight vigil while Russia's main Channel One television interrupted regular broadcasting to discuss the tragedy's impact on society and sports.

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## New York synagogue plot man gets 25 years

NEW YORK (AFP) - A US judge on Wednesday sentenced a New York man to 25 years for plotting to blow up synagogues and shoot down American military planes.

Laguerre Payen, 29, was convicted in October along with three other New Yorkers in the 2008-2009 plot, which the FBI broke up in a sting operation.

Payen and the other three men, all sentenced to 25 years in prison, were found to have plotted a jihadist-style assault setting off bombs in Bronx synagogues and using Stinger surface-to-air missiles to down aircraft at a National Guard air base outside New York.

The weapons, including C-

4 explosives and the hard-to-get Stingers, were bought through an undercover FBI informant and, unknown to the plotters, had all been made inert by the FBI.

They were arrested on May 13, 2009, just as they were planning what they thought to be bombs, but really were duds, outside two synagogues.

After a two-month trial they were found guilty of attempting to use weapons of mass destruction and to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles.

Defense lawyers argued that the FBI had lured the four men into a plot they would otherwise not have attempted to carry out.

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## Aruba's Public Transport

Continued from page 1



These measures will generate approximately 77 thousand Aruban florins per year. They will implement a new employee salary structure, which they are currently deliberating with the union. The restructuring of the personnel will reduce their costs by 475 thousand Aruban florins per year.

Arubus will do its own marketing. The advertising formula currently being used will be changed and this alone will generate in 2012 the amount of 212 thousand Aruban florins per year which could eventually reach 600 thousand Aruban florins per year.

As of October 1st there will be new bus routes...a total of 23 new routes! These routes will be covered by Arubus and by the autobuses working for Arubus. These routes will include the different homes in the barrios being more accessible to our citizens.

Beginning February 2012 the company will have a completely new fleet of busses - 100% new and modern busses equipped with air-conditioning. They will be acquiring 20 new busses. They are currently studying whether these will be diesel generated or gas generated busses. After the introduction of these new busses and once the community indicates their satisfaction with the ser-

vice, they will increase the tariffs. Hence, the tariffs will be increased six months after the introduction of the new busses.

The 25 cents discount when purchasing packages will be eliminated, which will generate an additional 400 thousand Florins per year.

The government will request Parliament to forgive Arubus' income tax and BBO debts to the government. Minister of Transport, Otmar Oduber, indicated that that would be a much sounder move than to seek a loan for Arubus (government) to pay the government. In addition to forgiving the Arubus debt, they will get a loan of 3.6 million Aruban florins to pay the SVB and AZV debts. And, another loan of 5.2 million to purchase the 20 new busses and other expenses related to the smart cards and sale of these.

All in all this will mean that by 2012 Arubus will be able to cover their expenses to the point that by 2013 they will be able to create reserve funds of 300 hundred thousand Aruban florins per year. The government will increase their subsidy to Arubus by 1 million Aruban florins and then subsequently reduce this by 2013 as there are clear indications that by then the company will be financially sound.

ORANJESTAD -- The process for accepting applications for the positions of General Director and Director in Charge of Patient Care is just about to begin for the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital.

After consulting with expert, Professor R. Lapre, the Board of Directors of the Hospital decided to implement a new management structure for our local Hospital with the objective of improving even more the quality of our patient care in the hospital. The new structure will enable the hospital to focus better on the important and crucial areas of the hospital's programs.

The intention was taken to expand the Board of Directors from 2 to 3 persons. In January 2012 the contract of the actual director will be terminated. Hence the hospital has decided to recruit a General Director and a Director in charge of Patient care.

The Aruba Hospital is one of the largest employers on the island, as well as the primary provider of advanced medical care in our community. For this reason the



Board of Supervisors has such stringent requirements for the new positions and the selection for the new positions announced. The Aruba Hospital, like any other hospital, has unique characteristics hence they must employ very stringent requirements in their search for those who will manage the hospital.

Preference goes out to local persons with the knowledge and experience in similar functions. If we are not able to recruit an Aruban candidate living on Aruba, we

will search abroad for an Aruban living abroad who may wish to return to Aruba. And, if not, we will be forced to recruit someone from abroad.

Both positions require professionalism and extensive experience specific to the Aruban characteristics. The last day to apply will be September 30, 2011. For more information interested persons should take note of the published announcements or visit the hospital's website at [www.arubahospital.com](http://www.arubahospital.com)

## Videla victims sue Dutch Princess Maxima's father

Relatives of Samuel Leonardo Slutzky who disappeared during the Argentinian Videla regime are to press charges against Jorge Zorreguieta - the father of Princess Máxima - in the Netherlands. Máxima is the wife of Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander.

Lawyers Liesbeth Zegveld and Goran Sluiter announced yesterday that legal proceedings are being launched against Mr Zorreguieta, who was minister of agriculture during the Videla regime. He is accused of complicity in

the disappearance of thousands of people in the period from 1976-1981.

The military junta that ruled Argentina in the 1970s was, according to Amnesty International, responsible for up to 30,000 deaths.

A legal case was also brought against Princess Máxima's father in 2001 in the Netherlands, but did not lead to any prosecutions. The Public Prosecutor said the case did not fall under Dutch jurisdiction.

Ms Zegveld says there has since been a change in the

law and that that Mr Zorreguieta could now be legally charged in the Netherlands.

The daughter of Samuel Leonardo Slutzky, who was arrested in 1977 and never heard of again, lives in the Netherlands. After an eight-month period in hiding with her brother and mother, Alejandra Slutzky arrived in the Netherlands in 1978 with her brother as an underage asylum-seeker.

She is a member of the Socialist Party. Her novel - published in 2003 - tells the story of her family.



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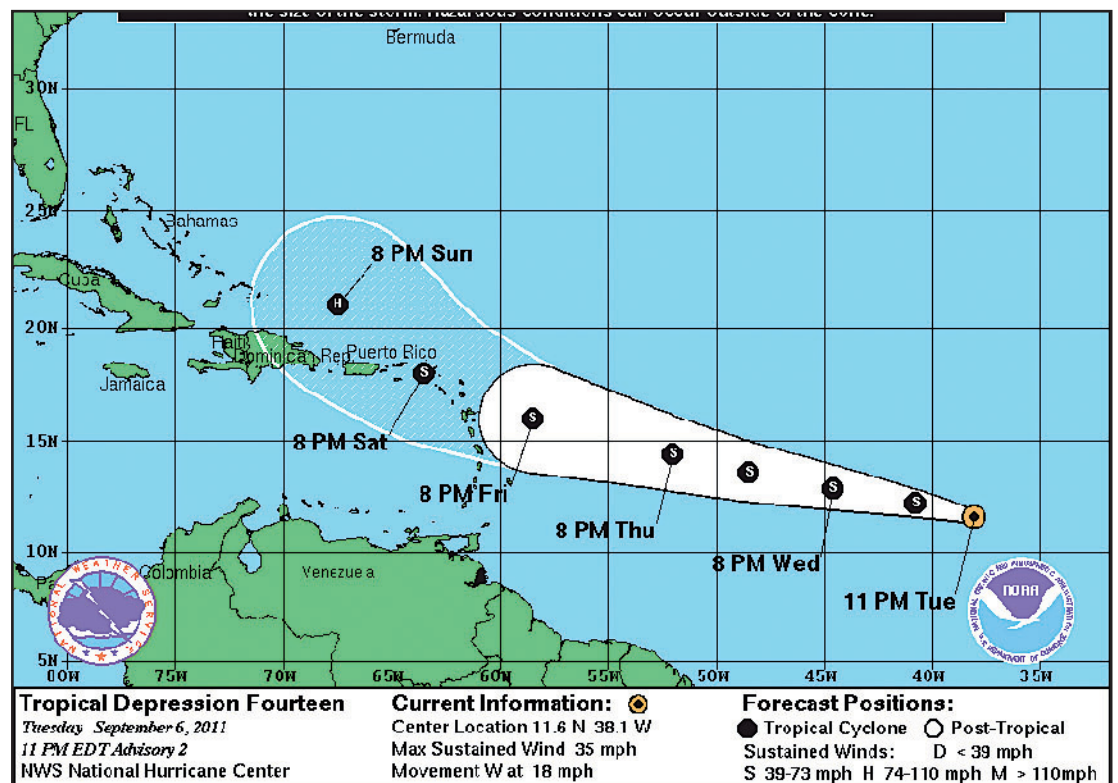

## Court of Appeal upholds Examining Magistrate's decision in detention of G.V.G.



ORANJESTAD -- The Court of Appeal announced yesterday, September 7th, 2011, its decision to uphold the decision by the examining magistrate to order pre-trial detention of the American suspect G.V.G. in the investigation of the possible drowning of the American woman R.G. on the 2nd of August,

2011. The ruling of the examining magistrate was appealed last week by G.V.G.'s lawyer. The Court of Appeal has ruled that the grounds mentioned in the examining magistrate's decision were sufficiently serious. The appeal of G.V.G.'s lawyer was denied.

## Tropical depression 14 takes aim at the Caribbean



As Hurricane Katia performs a slingshot manoeuvre around Bermuda and away from the US East coast toward Ireland and Britain, a new tropical threat has

emerged in the East Atlantic. Tropical Depression Fourteen (14) is expected to track over the Leeward Islands late on Friday and over Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic through Monday.

TD14, previously called System 95L, was located 800 miles west of Cape Verde Islands early on Wednesday having strengthened during Tuesday. Strong convection and thunderstorms were re-

ported around the center.

TD14 is expected to be named "Maria."

Meanwhile in the Caribbean, there's a second area that forecasters are watching for development, but it has only a 20 percent chance of becoming a tropical depression. There are clouds and showers associated with a nearly stationary low in the southern Gulf of Mexico.

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## Theater Workshop ready to set up shop at Cas Di Cultura

# ACTION 101

ORANJESTAD -- The Teatro Action 101 workshop is about to begin the theater course as of December 19 in the Cas Di Cultura. The goal of this workshop, scheduled to last 12 weeks is to elevate the passion for this form of art here on Aruba. Another goal is to contribute to the development of children, young people and adults.

Scenic Art (theater, dance and music) creates a distinct form of dance for children. It allows children to observe reality in a closer, real and sensible manner. Theater causes us to reflect and think. It also allows children as well as adults to feel free to express themselves in different ways. This art course will be an excellent educational opportunity to keep our children and young people occupied after school. Hence, this will avoid the gang formations on the streets.

The workshop consists of three phases: the actor receives training with respect to his capabilities in different areas of scenic art. In the first phase emphasis is placed on: body expression, voice and diction, movement/use of space, acting and the elaboration of texts.

In the second phase attention is placed on: corporal ex-

pression 2, acting 2, make-up, scenemagraphics, audio-visual media, acrobatics and costume. In the final phase they will begin preparation for a final presentation. This is a 12 week course and will be offered by 5 professional instructors of scenic art who will concentrate on the different age categories. Classes will be twice weekly in Papiamento according to the following age categories: 10-12, 13-15, 16-18 and 18 and above.

There will also be a master class under the direction of recognized international artists.

Interested persons may audition on September 12 at the Cas Di Cultura from 4:00 pm to 7:00pm. Auditions are open to any one 10 years and older. Auditions can also be scheduled for Wednesday September 14 at the same time at the Cas Di Cultura. The only requirement for the auditions is that you must come clad with comfortable clothing and with a passion for theater.

For more information, please call Cas Di Cultura at Tel. 582-1010 of Jarmine Acosta at Tel. 730-9093. Or, visit their website at [casicultura.aw](http://casicultura.aw), or email them at [action101@casicultura.aw](mailto:action101@casicultura.aw).



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## La Quinta Beach Resort guest honored by Aruba

Mrs. Marjorie Bollar was recently honored as a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honor was bestowed in her due her 20 years consecutive visit to Aruba.

According to Mrs. Bollar, the main reason she returns here year after year is Aruba's friendly people and the excellent hotel service.

Ms. Darline de Cuba, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, during a small ceremony on her behalf, handed her a beautiful certificate.

Also present were McKeisha Ross, representative of La Quinta Beach Resort.



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## Sci-Tech

# Security first: When a footstep is like a fingerprint



PARIS (AFP) - How a bare foot strikes the ground as one walks reveals your identity almost as well as a fingerprint, according to a study released Wednesday.

The discovery means that one day retinal scans, voice recognition and old-fashioned mugshots may be joined by foot-pressure patterns as a means of confirming ID, it suggests.

Previous research has shown that everyone has a unique stride. Computers can determine "gait patterns" -- the way a person walks, saun-

ters, swaggers or sashays -- with up to 90-percent accuracy.

Scientists led by Todd Pataky at Shinshu University in Tokida, Japan, looked at enhancing this finding by measuring how the foot hits and leaves the ground during walking.

They used 3-D image processing and a technique called image extraction to analyse the heel strike, roll-to-forefoot and push-off by the toes among 104 volunteers.

Footstep patterns were matched to the individual with 99.6 percent accuracy, according to their paper, published on Wednesday in Britain's Journal of the Royal Society Interface.

The study is "proof of concept," meaning that it was carried out in experimental conditions among volunteers who were barefoot to see whether the theory was sound.

In an email exchange with AFP, said the technology would be useful in security checks.

But it would only work in situations where an individual wants to be recognised, "since anyone can modify their gait," he explained.

"Automated airport security checks, ATM security, controlled building access -- in all these cases, an individual could walk normally to be positively identified."

Further work is needed to see whether feet that are shod throw up similar telltale patterns.

"We have some pilot data for walking with shoes, but have not yet conducted systematic testing," Pataky said.

## McAfee warns of hacker threat to autos



Cars made smarter with Internet technology are zooming into perilous hacker territory, according to a report by US computer security giant McAfee.

The first-of-its-kind report, entitled "Caution: Malware Ahead" and released late Tuesday, warned that security is lagging as vehicles are enhanced with embedded chips and sensors for a growing array of purposes.

"As more and more functions get embedded in the digital technology of automobiles, the threat of attack and malicious manipulation increases," said McAfee senior vice president and general manager Stuart McClure.

"It's one thing to have your email or laptop compromised, but having your car hacked could translate to dire risks to your personal safety," he added.

Chips are embedded in almost all parts of cars from airbags, brakes, and power seats to cruise controls, anti-theft gadgets, and communications systems, according to McClure.

Researchers have demonstrated that computers con-

trolling functions in automobiles can be hacked if attackers get into vehicles and, in some cases, from afar.

A security consultant with iSEC Partners showed peers at a recent Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas that it is possible to unlock or start cars by sending commands in the form of text messages from smartphones.

0 Sensors used by roadside emergency services to find cars or by car owners to make sure vehicles are being driven safely, can give cyber stalkers ways to track someone's movements, according to the report.

Hackers could disrupt car navigation systems, steal personal data through Bluetooth connections, or disable vehicles remotely, the findings indicated.

"The automobile industry is continually adding features and technologies that deliver new conveniences such as Internet access and the ability to further personalize the driving experience," the report said.

"However, in the rush to add features, security has often been an afterthought," it

said.

There were no indications that hackers have yet taken advantage of computer vulnerabilities in cars, according to McAfee.

McAfee and smart gadget software specialty firm Wind River, both owned by US chip colossus Intel, collaborated with embedded device security firm ESCRYPT on the study.

"As the trend for ubiquitous connectivity grows, so does the

potential for security vulnerabilities," said Wind River senior director for automotive solutions Georg Doll.

"The report highlights very real security concerns, and many in the auto industry are already actively designing solutions to address them," Doll added.

Researchers cited industry projections that the number of Internet connected devices will climb to 50 billion in the year 2020 from a billion last year.

The bulk of those gadgets are expected to be embedded devices such as airport ticket kiosks, cash registers, key card readers, and controls for factory machinery.

"Today, we're seeing bold new experiments, including Google's auto-piloted cars and smart roads with sensors that report on traffic conditions and vehicle speeds," the report said.

"Experiments like these show the ongoing possibilities... But there is a concern that as the industry advances, there has been little done to ensure the security of these systems."

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## Health & Living

# Heart disease raises maternal death risk



--Pregnant women with heart disease face a 100-fold increased risk of death, with the danger for offspring multiplied by ten, according to figures released Tuesday at a medical congress in Paris.

Analysing data on 1,300 women gathered since 2008

from 28 countries across Europe, researchers reported 13 maternal deaths -- one percent of the cohort -- among expectant women with pre-existing heart conditions.

In healthy women, the average rate of maternal mortality in Europe is about one in 10,000.

Of the 1,300 women, 869 had congenital heart disease, 333 were vascular heart patients, 79 had cardiomyopathy and 24 suffered from ischaemic heart disease.

Cardiomyopathy causes the heart muscle to become thicker and more rigid than normal, while ischaemic heart disease is characterized by reduced blood supply to the heart.

There were 59 cases of fetal deaths, or 4.5 percent of the total, about ten times the normal rate of mortality for European nations.

Data on the relationship between heart disease and maternal mortality is scarce, and randomised clinical trials are not possible, noted Jolien Roos-Hesselink, chairman of a European Society of Cardiology (ESC) data registry set up in 2006.

Roos-Hesselink said the figures, reported at the ESC's annual congress, was an interim analysis, and that more data was needed for a better understanding of which types of heart disease pose the highest risk and what treatment may be most effective.



**LAHORE :** Pakistani patients affected with dengue fever lie on beds in a ward at the hospital in Lahore on September 7, 2011. Scientists reported promising results from tests on a new way of assailing dengue fever by stealthily weakening populations of mosquitoes carrying the virus which causes the deadly disease. Dengue affects between 50 and 100 million people in the tropics and subtropics each year, causing fever, muscle and joint ache as well as potentially fatal dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome.

AFP PHOTO

## Cosmetic surgery soars in older Americans



DALLAS -- Among older Americans, those 65 and older, the number of cosmetic procedures soared -- 115,709 in 1997 to 684,768 in 2010, a Dallas plastic surgeon says. Dr. Rod Rohrich, chairman of plastic surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern

Medical Center in Dallas, says Americans spent \$10 billion last year on cosmetic surgeries such as eyebrow lifts and tummy tucks.

Many want to maintain a youthful-looking edge in the job market, while others say they just want their outward

appearance to reflect their inner vitality, Rohrich says.

"Cosmetic surgery is not age-limited anymore," Rohrich says in a statement. "With people working longer in life, they need to look as good as they feel. And they often have the means to do so."

However, patients need to make sure they are physically healthy if they are considering cosmetic surgery and recognize the danger they face, Rohrich adds.

"Cosmetic surgery is still real surgery, with real results as well as potential risks," Rohrich says. "When performing cosmetic surgery on patients in this age group, I tend to be more conservative. Less is more in all aspects, from rhinoplasty to face lifts to tummy tucks."

## Health Tip: Risk Factors for Fainting

-- Fainting occurs when you temporarily lose consciousness because of a sudden drop in blood flow to the brain.

The U.S. National Library of Medicine mentions these possible causes of fainting:

- Straining to produce a bowel movement.
- Having a prolonged bout of coughing.
- Standing in one spot for an extended period.
- Standing up too quickly from lying down.
- Having extreme pain or fear.
- Bleeding heavily.
- Suffering significant dehydration.
- Having a rapid drop in blood pressure.
- Taking certain medications, or abusing drugs or alcohol.
- Hyperventilating.
- Having low blood sugar.

=====

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William Blake (1757-1827), English poet, painter, engraver.



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## Miss Universe officials to Miss Colombia: Keep your panties on!

Has Miss Colombia been uncovered as Miss Commando?

We know it's steamy down there in Brazil—and probably even more so in the run-up to Donald Trump's annual Miss Universe Pageant, set for São Paulo on Sept. 12. But one contestant has apparently been taking this whole "keeping cool" thing a little too far: Miss Colombia has been going sans panties at official appearances.

And wouldn't you know, the wardrobe malfunction has sparked a media firestorm!

"Colombia had to be spoken to and told she needed to wear underpants, as what she was doing was totally inappropriate," an insider said. "People have been pretty upset by it; there have been photos and



media appearances where she has completely had her crotch out."

Various photos have been circulating on the Web of Robayo; consequently, officials at the Miss Universe Organization gave a, um, dressing down to the Latin lovely.



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## Strauss-Kahn complains of 'paparazzi intrusion'

PARIS (AFP) - French police visited former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn's Paris apartment yesterday, after his allies claimed that press photographers were trying to enter his building.

Strauss-Kahn continues to be of intense interest to the world's media three days after he flew back from the United States, where he had been charged but then cleared with the attempted rape of a hotel maid.

On Sunday on arrival back at his flat, the 62-year-old Socialist politician smiled and waved to journalists.

On Monday, Strauss-Kahn's media advisor said he would soon talk about the scandal, which wrecked his hopes of running for the president against Nicolas Sarkozy next year, but now he appears to be tiring of the attention.

French writer Tristane Banon has alleged that Strauss-Kahn, who was a notorious womaniser even before he was accused of sexual assault in New York this year, tried to rape her in an empty Paris apartment in 2003.

Strauss-Kahn denied both claims. The New York prosecutor's case fell apart when it emerged that his accuser there had a history of dishonesty, but he may still face questioning in France over the earlier alleged incident.

## '4:44 Last Day on Earth': end it all or stay and watch?

VENICE (AFP) - As the ozone layer disintegrates and the world prepares for certain doom in "4:44 Last Day on Earth," man is left with just one question: 'to be or not to be?' to commit suicide or stay and watch?

Hamlet's philosophical quandary plagues New Yorker Cisco, the protagonist in US independent filmmaker Abel Ferrara's latest film, in the running for Venice's Golden Lion with a world premiere screening yesterday evening.

There's an eerie calm on the Lower East side as residents wait for the end to come at 4:44 am the next morning. Last goodbyes are said by video-phone, the Chinese takeaway man still delivers -- only one man jumps off his balcony.

Unlike Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier's film "Melancholia," which explores the same themes and was a strong contender at Cannes Film Festival this year, there is no de-

spair, denial or outrage in Ferrara's movie.

"One of the big questions is why isn't there more anger at the end," Ferrara said in an interview at one of the Lido island's luxury beach hotels ahead of the screening.

"We talked about images of destruction. But... there's disbelief, there's anger and in the end there's acceptance. Once you believe it's the end, what can you really do? Are you going to break a window and steal a television set?"

"I think people are going to go on with what they go on with," he said.

As the television presenter gives his last briefing -- "Al Gore was right. We didn't listen and now it's too late" -- Cisco, played by Willem Dafoe, and his young partner Skye, played by Shanyn Leigh, make love, eat and play.

While the spiritual Skye absorbs herself in painting to the strains of a debate on the exis-

tence of the physical world, Cisco struggles with a substance addiction and mulls over the choice between suicide and waiting for death.

"To be or not to be? It's 'to be', that's the answer," the director said. "Why are you going to kill yourself if the world is going to end at 4:44? You would have thought just out of curiosity you'd stick around."

But Ferrara's characters appear to lack any curiosity about the end. While television images show those with religious beliefs coming together to pray, individualism and banality reigns as humdrum existences are played out.

The time of the end of the world, 4:44, is a reference to the Chinese significance of the number four, which stands for death, Ferrara said. And if humanity does not act now, oblivion is coming, sooner or later, he added.

"Civilisations that are more

advanced than ours have come crumbling down, so to think that what we have is beyond that, is earthquake proof, natural disaster proof or revolution proof, I think it's stupid," he said.

"We're responsible for the environment and the ozone. It begins in the mirror," he added, echoing the Dalai Lama's televised speech in the film urging humans to remember that "ultimately we are part of nature and its balance."

Though Dafoe -- of "The English patient" and "Spider Man" fame -- said the script did not "pop" for him the first time he read it, the issue of mortality in "4:44 Last Day on Earth" does have a personal resonance.

"I do think about my death all the time. Particularly around body functions and sex and eating, you know death is in the mix," he said.

"I'm a New Yorker, living down town, dealing with peo-



**Willem Dafoe**

ple -- some who have problems with substance abuse or sex or problems with work. They seek. Spirituality, or at least that kind of talk."

Having witnessed the end of Earth, Dafoe's next stop is Mars, where he appears in the guise of a warring "Barsoomian."

Playing a 10-foot tall, multi-armed Martian in the upcoming Pixar movie, "John Carter," had been a riot, he said. "I did the whole movie on stilts!"



## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

1. Rolling stone's lack
5. Singer Page or LaBelle
10. Dust mop's target
12. Ames natives
14. Gasoline rating
15. Sufficient
16. Fancy pillow covering
17. Extreme
19. Old-time auto
20. Mai \_\_\_\_
21. Know-it-\_\_\_\_
22. Ponder a problem
23. Pertaining to birth
25. Shoppers' aids
26. CD-\_\_\_\_
27. Cocktail lounge
28. Crawl
31. Ate at eight
33. Limelight lovers
34. Singer Coolidge
35. Psychic letters
38. Nile serpent
39. Mariah Carey's nickname
40. London

farewell (2 wds.)

41. Sleuth Marlowe
43. Like a tight passageway
45. Placid
46. Athenians, e.g.
47. Varnish ingredient
48. A \_\_\_\_ trifle

## DOWN

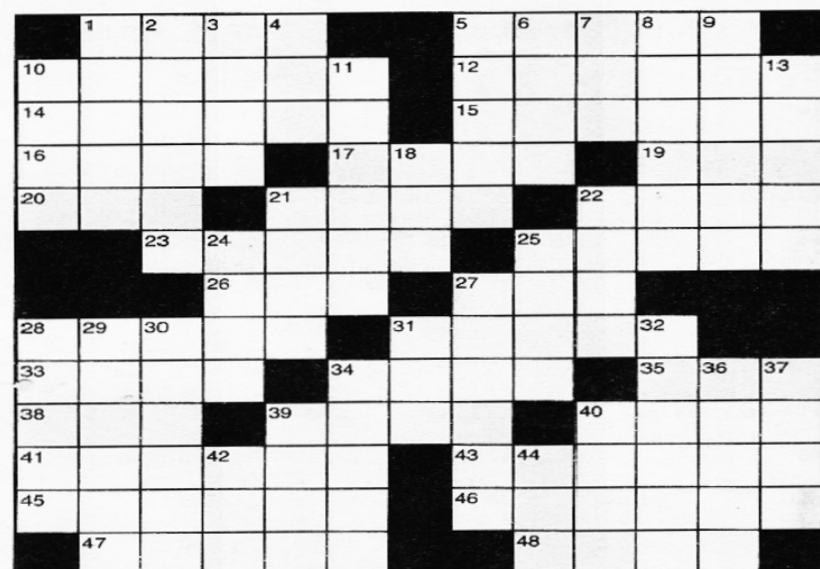
1. Starbuck's order
2. Acquire
3. Did the crawl
4. Washington VIP (abbr.)
5. Wharves' kin

6. The very best (2 wds.)

7. "Tea for \_\_\_\_"
8. Ford model
9. Eat
10. \_\_\_\_ of living
11. Wild confusion
13. Brogans
18. \_\_\_\_-advised
21. Above
22. Marsh
24. Son of Zeus
25. Lang or Turner
27. Nibbling
28. Fellows, in London
29. Slice of bacon
30. \_\_\_\_ State Building

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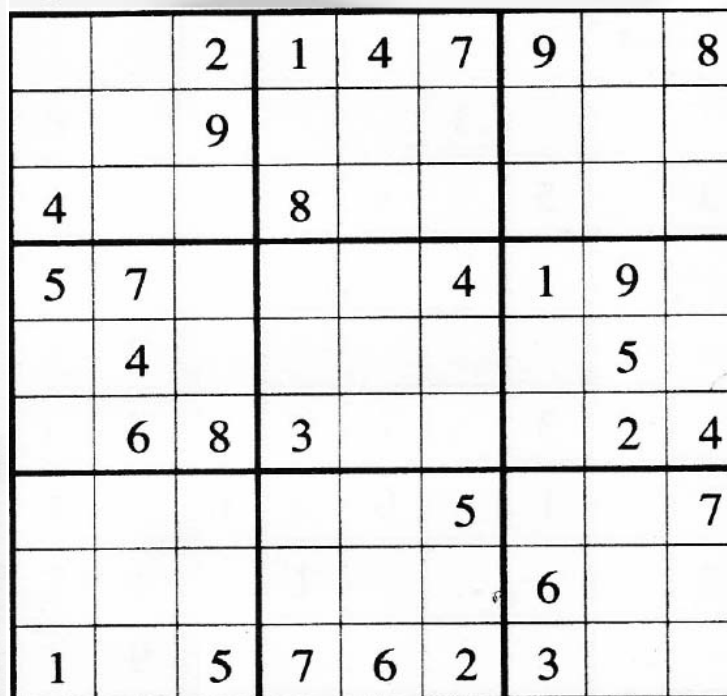
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## Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	7	8	2	9	1	5	8	1
5	1	9	8	6	7	2	4	3
4	8	2	5	1	7	9	6	3
7	2	1	5	8	9	6	3	4
8	5	8	6	1	9	1	7	2
9	6	1	7	8	2	5	4	3
2	9	5	8	6	1	7	2	4
1	4	7	9	2	5	6	3	8
8	8	6	1	7	2	5	9	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Finance

### US economy growing at slow pace: Fed report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US economy continues to grow slowly, with patches of weaker activity, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday in a report ahead of a key monetary policy meeting this month.

Recent stock market swings and rising economic uncertainty have dampened confidence, the Fed said in its latest Beige Book report.

The report, a collection of anecdotal economic data from the bank's 12 regional districts, was based on comments taken between mid-July through August 26.

It will be used by the Federal Open Market Committee at its next policy-setting meeting on September 20 and 21.

"Economic activity contin-

ued to expand at a modest pace, though some districts noted mixed or weakening activity," the report said.

Five districts reported modest or slight expansion, while growth remained sluggish or slowed in the others.

Several districts reported that "recent stock market volatility and increased economic uncertainty has led many contacts to downgrade or become more cautious about their near-term outlooks," the report said.

Consumer spending, the traditional engine of economic growth in the United States, "increased slightly in most districts," but non-auto retail sales were "flat or down" in several districts.

Manufacturing conditions

were "mixed" across the country, but the pace of activity slowed in many districts, according to the report.

High unemployment -- at 9.1 percent for the past two months -- showed little improvement. In August the economy added zero jobs as employers were reluctant to hire in the face of feeble demand and falling confidence in the health of the economy.

Labor markets were "generally stable," although some districts reported a modest rise in job growth, the report said.

Amid the economic slack, price pressures edged lower, while input costs continued to increase in some industries.

The collapsed housing sector, once a pillar of the economy, remained "weak overall

### Oil prices rise on US hurricane worries

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Crude oil prices rose on Wednesday as the US hurricane season threatened to disrupt supplies to the US economy, the world's biggest oil consumer, analysts said.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) light sweet crude for delivery in October, jumped \$3.32 to close at \$89.34 a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for October delivery advanced \$2.91 to settle at \$115.80 a barrel on the IntercontinentalExchange.

Traders were eyeing

weather conditions off the US coast as the country endures its storm season, said Nick Trevethan, senior commodities strategist at ANZ Research in Singapore.

"The market remains concerned about the possibility of a major storm in these six to seven weeks before the hurricane season ends, offering a little bit of support for WTI prices," he told AFP.

Hurricanes tend to jack up crude prices in the short term as offshore refineries are forced to close and may even be damaged in their wake, creating a supply disruption.

### Dutch favour commissioner for eurozone stability pact: PM

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte called Wednesday for the creation of a European commissioner to specifically ensure that eurozone countries comply with its stability pact.

"We... propose within the European Commission to get a separate commissioner ... which can take steps against countries who do not comply with the agreements," Rutte told the press in The Hague.

"We must go back to a strict regime in which countries which do not comply with agreements are forced to do so," Rutte said but he added: "Finally, countries can always decide to leave the euro. They have that freedom already."

To enforce the stability pact, the liberal prime minister spoke of possible sanctions in the form of a reduction in European funding and a "loss

in voting rights." The proposals are outlined in a letter to the Dutch parliament's lower house.

"I want to suggest to countries not to let it go that far," the Dutch top politician said, adding "these are suggestions we are making to other European countries to avoid that type of crisis."

The European Union is currently looking at strengthening sanctions against states which do not show sufficient fiscal discipline -- a measure demanded by some EU members in exchange for their support for plans to help countries in need including Greece.

"At the moment we are putting out fires, like in Greece, but also in Ireland and Portugal," with steps having to be taken to "prevent similar fires breaking out in future," Rutte said.

### Libya oil exports not to return to normal until 2013: IEA



PARIS (AFP) - Libyan oil exports are unlikely to return to their pre-war level before 2013, the new head of the International Energy Agency

said on Thursday.

"Our experts think that 2013 or beyond will most probably show the complete full restoration of the Libyan supply to the market, but not before that," Maria van der

Hoeven told AFP in an interview.

Libya, a key African oil exporter, produced about 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) before the rebellion against Moamer Kadhafi broke out in mid-February, and then slowed to a trickle.

Around 85 percent of Libyan oil output was exported to Europe, with the disappearance of its high quality light sweet crude from the market one of the reasons why Brent crude from the North Sea has been trading much higher than oil quoted on US exchanges.

Just how quick Libyan oil will return to the market remains one of the key questions

of the post-Kadhafi era, not only for European consumers but for Libya's new rulers who badly need oil export revenue to fund reconstruction.

Western oil groups that had been present in Libya, Italy's Eni, France's Total and Spanish Repsol have sent or are preparing to send staff to begin repairing damaged facilities despite the security situation remaining a concern.

"Stabilising the political situation is the first thing that has to be done," said van der Hoeven, who served as the Netherlands' economy minister from 2007 to 2010.

The IEA, the energy monitoring arm of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development that unites the world's biggest oil consuming nations, took the unusual step in June of having its members release oil from their strategic reserves amid a surge in the price of crude.

Van der Hoeven called the intervention "efficient" even though oil prices resumed their upward march within days.

#### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

E	R	A	S	I	L	L	F	A	T
S	O	L	E	A	R	I	A	A	D
Q	U	I	C	K	S	A	N	D	S
T	A	T	A	S	T	E	N	T	
	S	T	E	W		S	A	L	T
L	O	S		E	R	E		B	A
A	N	T		S	T	E	M	S	N
I	C	E	D		D	O	C		E
D	E	P	O	T	S	P	A	R	
	O	N	E	S		P	L	A	C
D	E	N		S	P	E	E	D	W
A	L	I		T	E	N	D		E
B	I	T		S	E	E		R	E



## A must see while on Aruba!

# The Aruba Ostrich Farm

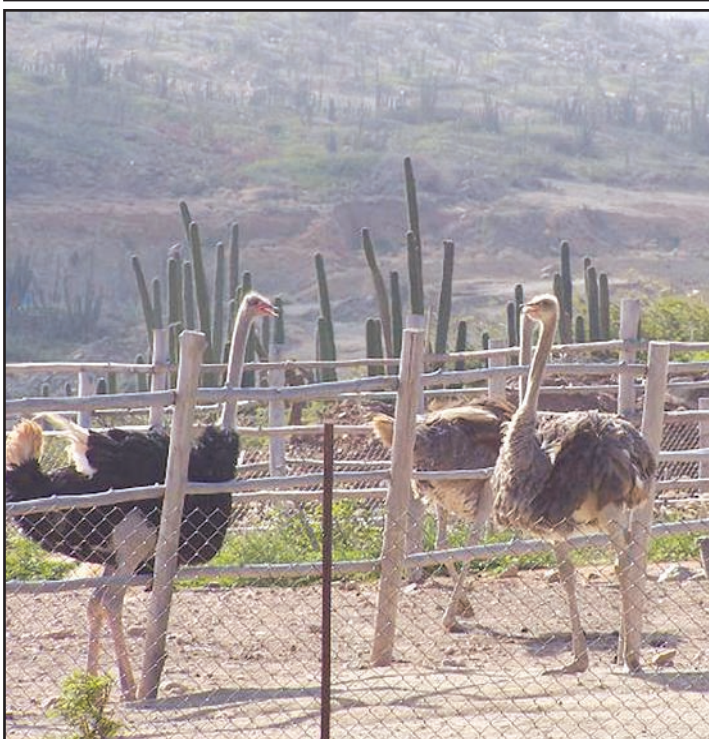
Welcome to an activity at Aruba you can't miss! When you think of Aruba, you probably think sea, sun and beach. But Aruba has more to offer than that, there're different sort of activities you can do. A must see when you are at Aruba, is the Aruba Ostrich Farm.

Although Africa is the native land of the ostrich, this intriguing bird finds a perfect home in Aruba's rugged landscape. The Aruba Ostrich Farm welcomes you to come and meet its 80-count flock of the largest living species in the world.

Visitors are encouraged to partake in a guided tour of the farm, inhabited by both ostriches and their flightless Australian relatives, emus. The tour provides the opportunity to learn about the natural behavior and survival instincts of these amazing creatures through detailed information as well as personal encounters with the birds.

Before or after the tour, guests are welcome to peruse the African Art Shop, chock-full of authentic goods from South Africa. Or simply relax in the shade of the sprawling Savanna Lodge Bar & Restaurant and sample a delicious ostrich meat dish. Enjoy the panoramic views of the island's northern coast while sipping on a fruity shake or frosty beer from the bar.

The Aruba Ostrich Farm is dedicated to providing a memorable and unique experience for all guests. It's one



of the things you have to do when you are at Aruba.

The ostrich farm is located along the road leading to the Natural Bridge (Matividiri

57). Opening hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with tour ever half hour. Kitchen opening hours are from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

## Quaranta couple named Distinguished Visistors of Aruba



Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority rep Darline S. de Cuba bestowed honorings on loyal Aruba visitors. Corrado and Constance Quaranta from Connecticut were named Distinguished Visitors of Aruba for their 10th consecutive visit here. The honoring was a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The honoring took place at Holiday Inn in presence of resorts' Brenda James and Mariana Leon and some friends.

## Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Olga, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal



### The famous Saté

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist. Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese.

Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in the sauce. If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.



## Toronto film festival to look at 9/11, women's strides

TORONTO (AFP) - North America's largest film festival opens Thursday in Toronto with a spotlight on music, the rise of women directors, illegal immigration and 9/11.

"It's a strong year for music documentaries, and there are some very provocative films by women," festival co-director Cameron Bailey said in an interview with AFP.

And "there's a noticeable response to the immigration crisis in Europe," he said. "We've seen documentaries on this subject in the past, but this year we see several (fiction) filmmakers dealing with people banging on Europe's door, and how Europe is re-

sponding to that."

The Toronto film festival opens Thursday evening for the first time ever with a documentary and runs until September 18 showcasing 268 feature films, and 68 shorts from 59 countries, including 123 world premieres.

The opener "From The Sky Down," directed by Davis Guggenheim, who won an Oscar for "An Inconvenient Truth" on climate change featuring former US vice president Al Gore, tells the story of the popular Irish band U2.

On Sunday, a four-minute short film "looking back at what happened" will mark the

10-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks in the United States.

"9/11 happened during our festival 10 years ago, and it was horrific and overwhelming for a lot of people, especially Americans who were stranded here," said Bailey.

The Toronto film festival is the biggest in North America and has traditionally been a key event for Oscar-conscious studios and distributors.

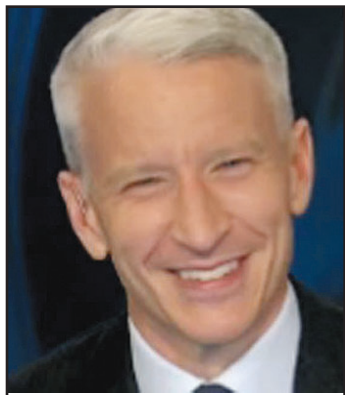
This year, stars including Brad Pitt, Clive Owen, Freida Pinto, Glenn Close, Rachel Weisz, Salma Hayek and Viggo Mortensen are expected to grace the red carpet.

## Winehouse family gives interview to Anderson Cooper

LOS ANGELES - The family of Amy Winehouse will give their first major television interview since the British singer's death in June to American journalist Anderson Cooper for the September 12 launch of his new TV program.

Cooper, who launches his own syndicated daytime talk show next week, said in a Twitter message on Tuesday that he would be speaking with Winehouse's father Mitch, her mother, stepmother and boyfriend for the launch of "Anderson."

"I'm really looking forward to speaking with Amy Winehouse's family. They've been through so much, and her talent was so great," Cooper said on Twitter.



The singer of hits such as "Rehab" and "Back to Black" was found dead in bed at her London home on July 23 at the age of 27. Despite well-chronicled addictions to drug and alcohol, the cause of her death remains a mystery. An autopsy found no illegal substances in her body and although alcohol

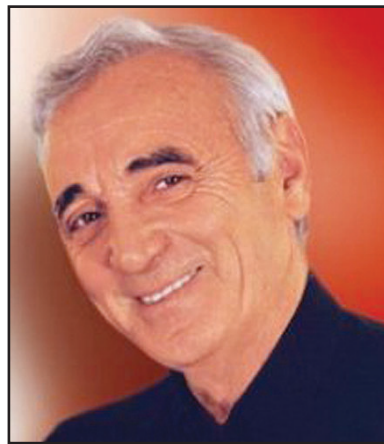
was present, it could not be determined if it played a role.

In the interview with Cooper, the singer's parents will discuss for the first time their daughter's long and public battle with substance abuse, the "Anderson" show said in a statement.

Mitch Winehouse said in July that Amy had beaten her drug dependency and had been happily looking forward to a future with her boyfriend, film director Reg Traviss.

Cooper's new talk show, to be broadcast before a live studio audience from New York, will cover pop culture, social issues and human interest stories. Cooper will also keep his job as host of nightly CNN news show "Anderson Cooper 360".

## Still going: French crooner Aznavour, 87, gears up for tour



PARIS - He may be 87, but don't suggest to French crooner and veritable national monument Charles Aznavour that his forthcoming tour is a goodbye. "I have never, ever used the word farewell," he quickly points out.

The legendary singer-songwriter pleased fans the world

over when he announced plans for a month-long residency at Paris' landmark Olympia theatre that started September 7, followed by a nationwide tour.

Aznavour's stint in the capital is a return to the stage that launched his career 55 years ago. Close to 1,000 songs and some 60 films later, there is -- once again -- speculation that he may choose the moment to announce his retirement.

"Some of the press say anything!" he told AFP. "I said that I was going to do one of my last tours. But when (US director) Martin Scorsese presents his latest film, you don't say he's not going to make another."

The performer of such hits as "She", rerecorded by Elvis

Costello for the Julia Roberts-Hugh Grant comedy "Notting Hill", and "Yesterday When I Was Young" said he is embarking on his new tour without first-night nerves -- but a bit of anxiety.

Ahead of the tour, Aznavour is publishing "From One Door to Another", a collection of thoughts and memories, and "Always", a new album of original songs.

From a generation of French "chanson" masters where lyrics are king and the tune a prop, the album is pure Aznavour with story-songs on the passing of time, on war, love and desire.

For his Olympia shows and the 20 dates that follow he has selected "some new songs, some old, some very old, and some all-time favourites."

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**MONTEVIDEO** : Picture released by RM's Press showing Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin wearing an Uruguayan national football team jersey (autographed by the players) during his show in Montevideo this week.  
AFP PHOTO



## Sneijder says he never wanted to leave Inter



ROME (AFP) - Wesley Sneijder has claimed he never wanted to leave Inter Milan despite reported interest from Manchester United.

Speaking to Dutch magazine Nusport, which has been picked up by press in Italy, the 27-year-old insisted he was happy in Italy.

"If Inter aren't the best club in the world then they're

second," he said.

"I wasn't unhappy about (United's interest), I would be mad to say otherwise.

"For a moment I was closer to joining United (than staying) but in the end nothing happened.

"It was a very different situation to when I was at Real Madrid. They wanted to sell me but here they didn't.

"I'm happy in Milan and with the president (Massimo Moratti) who didn't want to sell me.

"Inter gave me a chance when I was going nowhere and I haven't forgotten that.

"I feel at home at Inter and I have never wanted to leave. I don't know why the transfer to United didn't materialise, maybe they didn't want me enough."

Sneijder is starting his third season with Inter having been bought from Real after they signed Cristian Ronaldo and Kaka.

Sneijder tried hard to stay in Madrid but eventually accepted a transfer to Inter when the Spaniards made it clear he wouldn't play if he stayed.

All summer he was linked with moves to Manchester United and Manchester City despite both clubs denying any interest in him.

## Boxer Klitschko ready for battle against Adamek



have few friends amongst the expected 42,000 fans at the Miejski Stadium and forecasts his 'hardest fight in recent years' against challenger Adamek.

Alongside younger brother Wladimir, who holds the IBF, WBO and WBA titles, the Klitschko brothers dominate the division and Vitali says he expects to have it tough as he looks for the 43rd win and 40th knock-out of his career.

"I feel well here in the belly of the beast," said Klitschko as he prepares for his 'away match'.

As the mandatory challenger, Adamek is a former world champion in both the cruiserweight and light-heavyweight divisions.

WROCLAW (AFP) - World heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko has said he expects a hostile crowd and a tough battle against home-favourite Tomasz Adamek in Wroclaw, Poland, on Saturday night.

The 40-year-old WBC belt-holder can expect to

Klitschko praised the Poles' technique and character in the ring and warned: "This is my hardest fight in recent years. After my brother and I, Tomasz is currently the best heavyweight boxer".

This will be the elder Klitschko's first fight since he turned 40 in July and he admits references to his age now feel like "verbal low blows".

The tell-tale grey hairs can no longer be hidden, but the champion says he feels significantly younger as he prepares for the seventh defence of the title he won against Samuel Peter in Berlin in 2008.



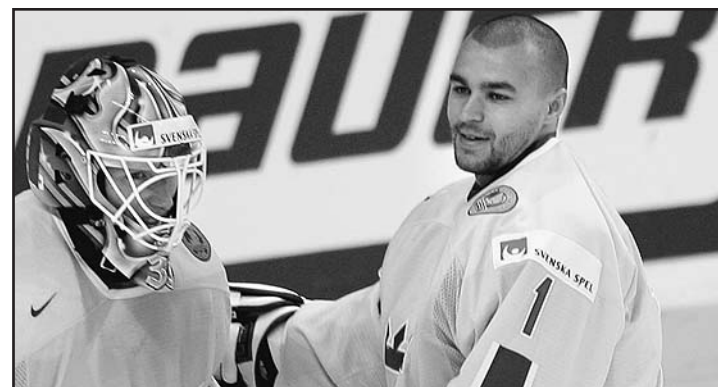
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## 5 foreign players killed in Russian hockey team crash: official



File picture taken on May 17, 2006 of Swedish goalie Stefan Liv (R) also killed in this week crash.

MOSCOW (AFP) - Five foreign hockey players including former Swedish Olympic champion Stefan Liv were among 44 people killed Wednesday when a plane carrying members of a Russian team crashed on takeoff, officials said.

The Russian charter flight claimed the lives of Slovakia's Pavol Demitra and the Czech Republic's Josef Vasecek, Jan Marek and Karel Rachunek, Interfax reported. The Swedish embassy had earlier confirmed the death of Liv.

"We got the confirmation a couple of minutes ago from the emergencies ministry. He is among the people who died in the crash" Swedish embassy spokesman Bengt Eriksson told AFP.

The local emergencies ministry said the Yak-42 jet crashed as it took off from Yaroslavl airport some 300 kilometres (185 miles) north-east of Moscow.

It was taking members of Russia's three-time champions to the Belarus capital Minsk for their first match of the 2011-2012 season.

The team is trained by Canada's Brad McCrimmon, a former assistant coach with the NHL's Detroit Red Wings who was also feared dead.

Only one person was confirmed to have survived the disaster.

A Canadian embassy spokesman said that information about McCrimmon could only be released by the department of foreign affairs in Ottawa.

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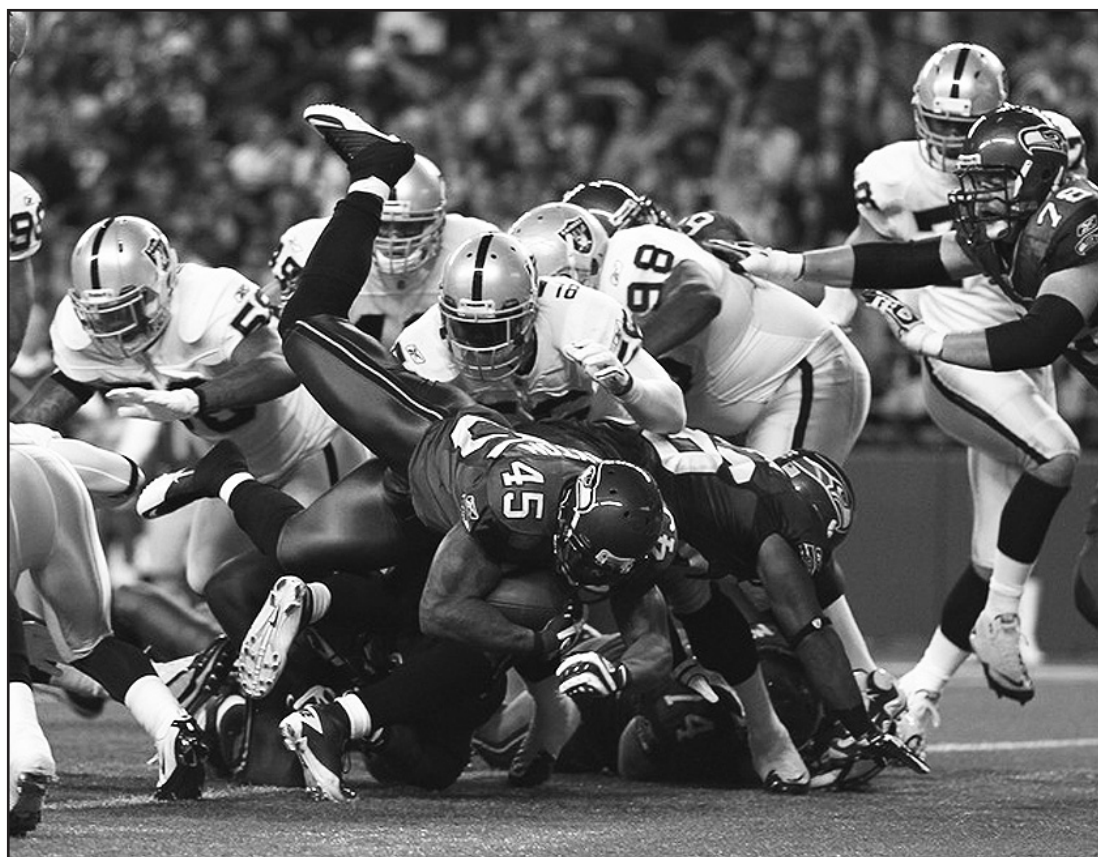
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# With money squabble over, let the games begin



WASHINGTON (AFP) - An NFL season jeopardized by a money fight between club owners and players will begin as planned today with reigning Super Bowl champions Green Bay playing host to 2010 kingpin New Orleans.

Both teams rank among the favorites to reach Super Bowl 46 on February 5 at Indianapolis after an off-season of controversy that forced teams to squeeze months of pre-season preparations and personnel moves into weeks.

"We both feel like we're poised to make another run," Saints quarterback Drew Brees said. "It doesn't get any better than this."

Billionaire club owners locked out multi-millionaire players for 4 1/2 months before the financial squabble was settled in July. Owners got some of the up-front money they sought. Players received superior health benefits.

Without off-season workouts and hurried roster assembly, teams with players who are familiar with one another and have had success together figure to have an advantage, especially early in the season.

Brees led the Saints in players-only workouts during the lockout in hopes of producing a hot start, especially from NFL newcomers.

"That helped us a lot, especially with the young play-

ers, because we had every one of our draft picks there," Brees said. "We tried to simulate as best we could a normal off-season."

The Packers remain the team to beat and should be improved with Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Aaron Rodgers having tight end Jeremichael Finley back from injury, adding a new target for an already-formidable attack.

"We should score every time we get the ball," Finley said. "The drive we have got in this locker room is amazing. This is going to be a special team. It's going to be deadly."

There have been 10 different National Conference champions in the past 10 years and the Packers in 1996 and 1997 were the last NFC team to make back-to-back Super Bowl appearances.

Along with the Saints, the Philadelphia Eagles figure to be in the NFC hunt led by quarterback and former felon Michael Vick, who signed a six-year deal worth \$100 million.

Vick threw for 3,018 yards and 21 touchdowns and ran for 676 yards and nine touchdowns last season.

In the American Conference, the New England Patriots added receiver Chad Ochocinco from Cincinnati and defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth from Washington to an already stellar lineup.

Quarterback Tom Brady and his favorite target, Wes Welker, will keep the Patriots among the contenders.

But the AFC East rival New York Jets, who were one game shy of the Super Bowl last season, figure to challenge with receiver Plaxico Burress joining Santonio Holmes in giving Mark Sanchez deep receiving threats.

Pittsburgh will bid for a return trip to the Super Bowl behind quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and receivers Hines Ward and Jericho Cotchery.

Indianapolis will try to become the first team to play a Super Bowl in its home stadium but the Colts are struggling without Peyton Manning, who underwent off-season neck surgery to repair nerve damage.

Despite signing a five-year deal worth \$90 million in the off-season, Manning has not practiced with the club and after 207 starts in a row is likely to give way to Kerry Collins.

"There's no way I can replace someone like Peyton and what he means for this team and this franchise," Collins said. "But I will bust my butt to get ready and I hope the guys see that."

San Diego, behind the passing Philip Rivers, and Baltimore, with a strong defensive unit, should also be contenders in the AFC.

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## A no-no for Clemens' team, judge says

WASHINGTON, September 7, 2011 (AFP) - Representatives of Roger Clemens' legal defense team contacted jurors from his July mistrial in violation of court orders against doing so, US District Judge Reggie Walton said Wednesday.

Walton has scheduled a re-trial starting April 17 on charges the former Major League Baseball superstar pitcher lied to Congress when he denied ever taking performance-enhancing drugs during a 2008 hearing.

The first trial began but was halted on the second day when prosecutors presented evidence that Walton had already banned from being seen by jurors.

After learning that a defense investigator contacted some of the 12 jurors and four alternates seated in July, prosecutors asked Walton for permission to contact them as well.

In a letter to the jurors, Walton said he did not provide any information regarding how to contact the individuals to the Clemens defense team but did ask if they would now speak with prosecutors as well.

Prosecutors also asked for the notes from any Clemens investigator interviews with jurors but Clemens attorneys argued against it and Walton asked prosecutors for a precedent-citing motion on the issue by the end of September.

## Taiwan's Tseng seeks eighth title of year

ROGERS (AFP) - World No. 1 Yani Tseng of Taiwan will defend her title at the 54-hole LPGA Northwest Arkansas Championship starting Friday in hopes of claiming her eighth worldwide triumph of the year.

At 22, Tseng became the youngest golfer, man or woman, to win a fifth career major title by capturing last month's Women's British Open. She leads the LPGA money list, Player of Year race and owns the LPGA low season scoring average.

"I'm very excited," Tseng said. "To become No. 1 is very exciting. I have more people who pay attention to me and more pressure too."

"But now I just really enjoy what I have. I feel like I still have a long way to go and that I have a lot of things that I need to learn. I'm only 22, so I have a lot of things that I need to work on and to achieve too."

In four seasons, Tseng has won nine LPGA titles, four of them this year, as she bids for a \$2 million purse, the highest for a non-major US event, at Pinnacle Country Club.

She will be tested by a world-class field that includes

the rest of the top 10 and 47 of the top 50 players, including World No. 2 Suzann Pettersen of Norway, No. 3 Cristie Kerr of the United States and South Koreans Jiyai Shin and Na Yeon Choi, ranked fourth and fifth respectively.

Flags on all 18 greens will be replaced by American flags on Sunday in a tribute to those who were killed in the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001.

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# Nadal leads revolt over safety at rain-hit US Open

NEW YORK (AFP) - Rafael Nadal lashed out at US Open organisers on Wednesday, claiming players' safety was being put at risk in a desperate effort to make up for lost time at the chaotic, rain-ravaged event.

Defending champion Nadal, world number four Andy Murray and 2003 winner Andy Roddick joined forces to complain to tournament referee Brian Earley after they were sent out to play on courts that had been battered by almost constant rain.

The start of play had already been delayed by 90 minutes but their fourth round matches lasted just 15 minutes before they were hauled off as more downpours soaked Flushing Meadows.

Five hours later, all four last-16 matches and two scheduled quarter-finals were



cancelled and moved to today as the prospect of a Monday men's final for a fourth successive year edged closer.

"We don't want to go on

court if it is raining. If I have to go on court, I go on court, but I think it's not fair," said 10-time Grand Slam title winner Nadal, whose match

had originally been slated for Tuesday before the whole day's schedule was washed out.

The clearly unhappy Spaniard was 3-0 down to Luxembourg's Gilles Muller on Arthur Ashe Stadium when they pair were taken off as conditions deteriorated.

As he passed Earley on the court, he was overheard to say: "It's the same old story, all you ever care about is money."

Nadal added in an interview with ESPN: "We are not protected. There is a lot of money at the Grand Slams but we are part of the show. They are just working for that and not for us."

"It was still raining when they called us on court. The rain never really stopped, the courts were not dry. I know the fans are there but the health of the players is important."

Murray, who was trailing 2-1 to America's Donald Young on Grandstand, insisted it was too dangerous to play.

"The lines get really slippery. Players want to play more than anyone, but not when it's dangerous," said the Scot.

"The back of the court was soaking and the balls were wet too. Everyone mentioned it to the officials but they said it was fine. It didn't make sense to go out on court for seven or eight minutes and then come back inside."

Nadal, Murray and Roddick now could have to play four days in succession if the men's final is to be played as planned on Sunday.

US Open officials said that their decision to send the players out was prompted by their belief that a two-hour window was available between the showers.

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